

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 /012 W
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P R 262025Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1141

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 6789

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: RSO POSITION IN LIMA

REF: STATE 181356, LA PAZ 5871

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT AGREE THAT SINGLE RSO IN LIMA CAN PROVIDE EFFECTIVE SERVICE TO FOUR POSTS AT LIMA, QUITO, GUAYAQUIL AND LA PAZ, AS WELL AS TO OUTLYING BI-NATIONAL CENTERS IN PERU.

2. THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR FROM PANAMA IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. POST WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CONCLUSION REACHED WAS THAT RSO-LIMA COULD COVER ONE OTHER COUNTRY IN ADDITION TO POSTS IN PERU. EITHER ECUADOR OR BOLIVIA WAS MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITY, BUT NOT BOTH. DEPARTMENT RECORDS WILL INDICATE THAT THREE-COUNTRY COVERAGE WHICH EXISTED PRIOR 1975 WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL AND LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN RSO POSITION DEVOTED SOLELY TO PERU IN LATE 1974. ONCE EXISTING BACKLOGS WERE CORRECTED, RSO RESPONSIBILITIES IN LIMA ADMITTEDLY BECAME LESS THAN A FULL-TIME OCCUPATION AND, FOR THIS REASON, THE EMBASSY AGREED THAT THE RETURN TO A REGIONAL CONCEPT WAS INDICATED. IN THIS CONNECTION, SY WOULD DO WELL TO CONSULT WITH FORMER RSO GWYNNE BOUCHER WHO DID YEOMAN SERVICE IN CLEARING UP BACKLOGS AND GENERALLY BRINGING LIMA'S SECURITY PROGRAM UP TO SNUFF.

3. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LIMA IS OFTEN PROBLEMATICAL
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AND DEMANDS MORE TIME OF THE RSO THAN WOULD BE AFFORDED BY

A 3-COUNTRY ASSIGNMENT. PERU IS PRESENTLY UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY DECREE AND LIMA IS SUBJECT TO A MIDNIGHT CURFEW FOLLOWING THE JULY 1 DISTURBANCE WITH SUBSEQUENT INTRA-MILITARY DISCONTENT CULMINATING IN A CABINET SHAKEUP. THE MARXIST LEFT IS DISGRUNTLED WITH RECENT POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH IT VIEWS AS A MOVE TO THE RIGHT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) IS IN ALMOST OPEN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. SHARP PRICE RISES CAUSED BY A MAJOR DEVALUATION IN THE CURRENCY HAVE INCREASED THE LEVEL OF DISCONTENT IN THE POPULACE AT LARGE BOTH IN LIMA AND THE PROVINCES. THE ABOVE FACTORS COMBINE TO PRODUCE AN UNSTABLE SECURITY SITUATION NOW AND INTO THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AND A SITUATION WHICH WILL DEMAND THE CLOSE ATTENTION OF THE RSO.
DEAN

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